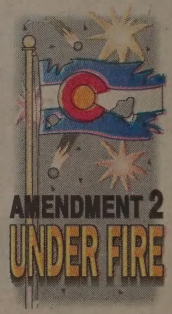
PROFILE

'Get in their face and scream'

New Yorkers do a boycott their way



By **Louis Aguilar**/Gazette Telegraph

A new gay rights group in Manhattan has taken the idea of saying no to Colorado and New Yorked it.

Their target: Amendment 2. Their goal: Boycott Colorado. Their approach: In your face.

They are New York Boycott Colorado, less than a month old but already claiming two victories won in a scrappy, confrontational style.

Television personality Connie Chung is no longer going to speak Friday to the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce partly because the New York boycott group passed out thousands of leaflets to subway commuters that included the CBS broadcaster's office and fax machine numbers. "Does Connie Chung endorse discrimination?" the leaflet asked.

Wednesday, Self magazine decided to drop a weekend sales conference in Aspen after the boycott group and its supporters, the Lesbian Avengers, raided the magazine's offices and momentarily trapped the editor in her office because she reportedly feared the Avengers were armed.

"This is New York. The only way people pay attention to you here is to get in their face and scream," said Chip Duckett, a spokesman for the group that he estimated has about 75 members.

"We plan to tell everyone we can that Colorado has passed a very discriminatory law," Duckett said.

He was referring to Amendment 2. It would ban laws that prohibit discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals based on their sexual orientation. More than 53 percent of state voters voted to pass it in November, and Colorado has not been quite the same since then.

The state has become a national battleground for gay rights. City councils of several major cities, including New York City, have banned official travel here. And millions of dollars have been lost to the Colorado economy when a dozen or so groups canceled conventions in the state.

That toll increased Wednesday, when the American Mathematical Society officially informed Denver convention officials it has dropped the state as its convention site for January 1994. That's a $3.6 million loss in business, the second-largest convention to turn its back on Colorado because of Amendment 2.

More bad news came Sunday, when the national board of the American Civil Liberties Union overwhelmingly voted to endorse the boycott. The Colorado chapter of the ACLU is maintaining a neutral stance, mainly because it is involved in a lawsuit seeking to overturn the amendment.

The formation of New York Boycott Colorado is a new twist in the Amendment 2 backlash. It is the first group started outside Colorado with the sole aim of promoting economic warfare on the state.

There is a Denver-based group called Boycott Colorado, with which the New York group keeps in contact, but Duckett said the Manhattan group is "completely autonomous."

"For people outside of Colorado, we have to

See **NEW YORK**/B5

LEGISLATURE

House OKs $137 million for schools

Stage set for debate

By **Heidi Gabitzsch**
Denver Bureau

DENVER — House members voted Wednesday to recommend spending an extra $137 million on Colorado schools next year, setting the stage for an intense debate.

Although it appears the state is increasing its funding, critics say schools actually will face a $103 million shortfall from current spending because of growing enrollment. Under the proposal, state money provided for each student will drop from $4,248 to $3,956.

The House action is not binding. It's a recommendation the Senate will consider.

If the Senate approves, the Joint Budget Committee will be encouraged to include the increase when it develops a first draft of this year's overall state budget.

While debating whether the $137 million should come from reserve funds, several legislators discussed trimming budgets other than education.

"If we are going to take gross dollars out of the school program, we need to take money out of all the programs," said Rep. Tim Foster, R-Grand Junction.

Rep. Ruth Wright, D-Boulder, criticized taking the school money from the reserve fund, saying the state would run out of reserves in three years.

Offering one of the more enterprising budget crunch resolutions, Rep. Bill Thiebaut, D-Pueblo, suggested eliminating all sales tax exemptions.

Items in Colorado for which sales tax isn't charged include food not eaten in restaurants, prescription drugs, fuel for home heating and newspapers.

A sales tax on food would raise $144.1 million a year, according to a 1991 estimate by the state Department of Revenue.

But removing the exemptions could clash with Amendment 1. It limits state spending and sends all proposed tax increases to a vote of the people.

Thiebaut, a lawyer, said he doesn't see removing the exemptions as a tax increase.

"But that's a legal question that would have to be ironed out by the courts," he said.

Campaign finance reform measure killed in state Senate committee

Associated Press

DENVER — A bill to limit individual campaign contributions to $500 and contributions by political action committees to $1,000 to any candidate for state office died Wednesday in a Senate committee.

Freshman Sen. Paul Weissmann, D-Louisville, brought his proposal to the Senate State Affairs Committee, where it was

eligible voter. Once they agreed to the limit, candidates would not have been able to legally exceed it under the bill.

Candidates not agreeing to the voluntary spending limits would have had to include in advertisements: "Not in compliance with voluntary spending limits."

Patrick Boyle of the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry told the committee he op-

House panel OKs income tax checkoff to benefit senior volunteer program

Associated Press

DENVER — Colorado residents could check a box on their state income tax forms to help finance a volunteer senior citizen program under a bill approved by a House committee Wednesday.

The plan, HB1020, was approved by the House Finance Committee by a 7-3 vote.

Rep. Mike Salaz, R-Trinidad, the bill's sponsor, said the checkoff would provide money for a host of volunteer programs that are already in place.

New York/Gay rights backed

From B1

keep the pressure on and we just wanted independence to do that without having to answer to people in Colorado," he said.

Garnering interest in New York City for a debate going on in Colorado was easy, he said. It started with someone putting up posters in Greenwich Village that urged the gay community there to take a stand.

"Most gays consider (the amendment) truly scary," he said.

"We know Colorado has a lot of people who are not anti-gay, but they have to admit now they were fooled into voting for something that is anti-gay," he said.

The New York group has a mix of people. Some have been involved with two gay rights groups known as ACT UP and Queer Nation. But there are members who are new to activism, Duckett said.

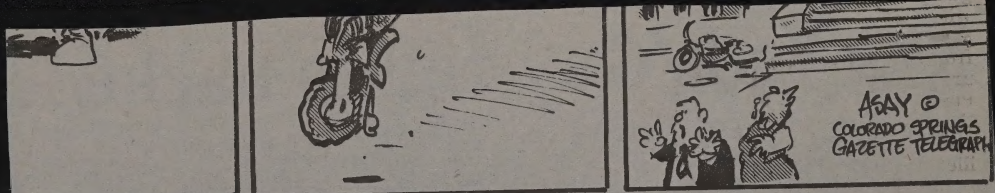
"They are not all kids (dressed) in black who live in the Village," he said, referring to Greenwich Village, located on the lower west side of Manhattan. "We have travel agents, straights, people just concerned about gay rights."

New York Boycott Colorado has two goals: Stop money and people from flowing into Colorado and stop Colorado companies from making money in New York City.

For example, the group has targeted Neoplan U.S.A. Corp., a Lamar-based bus manufacturer trying to sell buses to New York City's transportation department. Duckett said his group will try to derail that deal by picketing and protesting outside the offices of city officials involved in contract talks. A spokeswoman for Neoplan confirmed it is working with the city but declined further comment. New York City officials couldn't be reached.

Another goal of the group was to stop Aspen Gay Ski Week, which went off relatively unaffected by the boycott movement this week. Duckett conceded many people had already made reservations for the event months in advance and were unwilling to cancel them.

"Next year, we guarantee, will be a different story," he said.



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ndment 2's poor losers

ched the presidential in-
n replays, one thing
: what a gracious loser
Bush is! I'm sure he and
ad shed many tears over
ion loss but were brave
aced the succession. I
linton's do as well if they
selves in similar circum-

y the term "good loser"
applied to the opponents

Selling one's own soul for political gain is one thing; selling the loyal, patriotic soul of the nation is quite another.

It's well-known that Clinton fought strenuously to avoid service in uniform to his country. There are reports that he organized and participated in protests on foreign soil against the Vietnam policies of his government. It is therefore understandable that he would consider the U.S. military just another political pawn to be sold to the highest bidder in his climb to the presidency.

I would urge him, however, to stop and think a moment before he

orado Springs in six years.

— **Tom Minnery**
Vice president of public policy
Focus on the Family
Colorado Springs

America blessed with stability

I was pleased and uplifted to observe Chuck Asay's cartoon in the Jan. 21 paper paying tribute to the quiescent way in which we in the United States change leadership. The title of his cartoon, "Another reason why it's great to be an